

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

Vol. I.]

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THE MILITARY MONITOR, AND AMERICAN REGISTER, By T. O'CONNOR,

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NEW-YORK, 1812.

Official.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Commodore Bainbridge to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. FRIGATE CONSTITUTION.

St. Salvador, Jan. 13, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the 29th ultimo, at 2. P. M. in south latitude 13, 06, and west latitude 38, about 10 leagues distance from the Coast of Brazil, I fell in with and captured his Britannic Majesty's frigate Java, of 49 guns and upwards of 400 men, commanded by Captain Lambert, a very distinguished officer. The action lasted 1 hour and 55 minutes; in which time the enemy was completely dismasted, not having a spar of any kind standing. The lost on board the Constitution was 9 killed and 25 wounded as per enclosed list. The enemy had 60 killed 101 wounded, certainly (among the latter Captain Lambert, mortally) but by the enclosed letter, written on board the ship, (by one of the officers of the Java) and accidentally found, it is evident that the enemy's wounded, must have been much greater than as above stated and who must have died of their wounds previously to their being removed. The letter states 60 killed and 170 wounded.

For further details of the action, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed extracts from my journal. The Java had had

in addition to her own crew upwards of 100 supernumery officers and seamen, to join the British ships of war in the East Indies; also Lieut. General Hislop, appointed to the command of Bombay, Major Walker, and Capt. Wood, of his staff, and Capt. Marshall, master and commander in the British navy, going to the East-Indies to take command of a sloop of war there.

Should I attempt to do justice, by representation, to the brave and good conduct of all my officers and crew, during the action, I should fail in the attempt; therefore, suffice it to say, that the whole of their conduct was such as to merit my highest encomiums. I beg leave to recommend the officers particularly to the notice of government, as also the unfortunate seamen who were wounded, and the families of these brave men who fell in the action.

The great distance from our own coast, and the perfect wreck we made the enemy's frigate, forbid every idea of attempting to take her to the U. States, and not considering it prudent to trust her into a port of Brazil, particularly St. Salvador, as you will perceive by the enclosed letters, No. 1. 2. and 3. I had no alternative but burning her, which I did on the 31st ult. after receiving all the prisoners and their baggage, which was very tedious work, having only one boat left (out of eight) and not one left on board the Java.

On blowing up the frigate Java, I proceeded to this place, where I have landed all the prisoners on their parole, to return to England, and there remain until regularly exchanged, and not serve in their professional capacities in any place or in any manner whatever against the U. States of America, until the exchange shall be effected.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect.

(Signed)

W. BAINBRIDGE.

Extract from Com. Wm. Bainbridge's Journal kept on board the U. States frigate Constitution.

"Tuesday, Dec. 29 1812.

"At 9 A. M. discovered two strange sails on the weather bow. At 10 discovered the strange sails to be ships; one of them stood in for the land and the other stood off shore, in a direction towards us. At 10 45, A. M. we tacked ship to the northward and westward, and stood for the sail standing towards us, and at 11 A. M. tacked to the southward and eastward, hauled up the mainsail and took in the royals. At 11 30, made the private signal for the day, which was not answered, and then sat the mainsail and royals to draw the strange sail off from the neutral coast, and separate her from the sail in company.

"Wednesday, 30th Dec. (nautical time)—In lat. 13, 6. S. long, 38, W. 10 leagues from the coast of Brazil, commences with clear weather and moderate breezes from E. N. E. hoisted our ensign and pendant. At 15 minutes past meridian, the ship hoisted the colors—an English ensign, having a signal flying at her main.

"At 1 26, P. M. being sufficiently from the land, and finding the ship to be an English frigate, took in the mainsail and royals, tacked ship, and stood for the enemy. At 1 50, P. M. the enemy bore down with an intention of raking us, which we avoided by wearing. At 2, P. M. the enemy being within half a mile of us, and to windward, and having hauled down his colors except the union jack at the mizenmast head, induced me to give orders to the officer of the 2d division to fire a gun ahead of the enemy, to make him show his colors, which being done, brought on a fire from us of the whole broadside, on which the enemy hoisted his colors, and immediately returned our fire. A general action with

round and grape, then commenced; the enemy keeping at a much greater distance than I wished; but could not bring him to a closer action, without exposing ourselves to several rakes. Considerable manœuvres were made by both vessels to rake and avoid being raked. The following minutes were taken during the action:—

"At 2 10, P. M. commenced the action within good grape and cannister distance, the enemy to windward (but much farther than I wished.)

"At 2 30, our weel was shot entirely away.

"At 2 40, determined to close with the enemy notwithstanding his raking.—Set the fore & mainsail, and luffed up close to him.

"At 2 50, the enemy's jib-boom got foul of our mizen rigging.

"At 5, the head of the enemy's bowsprit and jib-boom shot away by us.

"At 3 5, shot away the enemy's foremast by the board.

"At 2 15, shot away his maintopmast just above the cap.

"At 3 40, shot away the gaff & spanker boom.

"At 3 55, shot away his mizenmast nearly by the board.

"At 4 05, having silenced the fire of the enemy completely, & his colors in main rigging being down, supposed he had struck, then hauled down the courses to shoot ahead to repair our rigging, which was extremely cut, leaving the enemy a complete wreck; soon after discovered that the enemy's flag was still flying. Hove too to repair some of our damage.

"At 20, minutes past 4, the enemy's mainmast went nearly by the board.

"At 50 minutes past 4, wore ship and stood for the enemy.

"At 25 minutes past 5, got very close to the enemy in a very effectual raking position, athwart his bows, and was at the very instance of raking him, when he most prudently struck his flag—for had he suffered the broadside to have raked him, his additional loss must have been extremely great, as he laid an unmanageable wreck upon the water.—After the enemy had struck, wore ship and reefed the topsails; then hoisted out one of the only two remaining boats we had left out of eight, and sent Lieut. Parker, 1st of the Constitution, to take possession of the enemy, which proved to be his B M frigate Java, rated 28, but carried 49 guns, and manned with upwards of 400 men, commanded by capt. Lambert a very distinguished officer, who was mortally wounded. The action continued from commencement to the end of the fire, 1 hour and 55 minutes. The Constitution had 9 killed and

25 wounded. The enemy had 60 killed and 101 certainly wounded, but by a letter written on board the Constitution by one of the officers of the Java, and accidentally found, it is evident the enemy's wounded must have been considerably greater than as above stated, and who must have died of their wounds previously to being removed. The letter states 60 killed and 170 wounded. The Java had her own complement of men complete, and upwards of 100 supernumeraries, going to join the British ships of war in the East Indies; also several officers, passengers, going out on promotion. The force of the enemy in number of men at the commencement of the action, is no doubt considerably greater than we have been able to ascertain; which is upwards of 400 men. The officers were extremely cautious in discovering the number. By her quarter bill, she had one man more stationed to each gun than we had.

"The Constitution was very much cut in her sails and rigging, and many of her spars injured.

"At 7 P. M. the boat returned with Lieut. Chads, the 1st lieut. of the enemy's frigate, and lieut. gen. Hislop, (appointed governor of Bermuda) major Walker and capt. Wood.

"Capt. Lambert was too dangerously wounded to be removed immediately. The cutter returned on board the prize for the prisoners, and brought capt. Marshal, master and commander of the British navy, who was passenger on board, and several other naval officers.

"The Java was an important ship, fitted out in the completest manner to carry lieutenant general Hislop and staff to Bombay."

List of killed and wounded on board the United States frigate Constitution, under the command of Commodore Wm. Bainbridge, in an action with H. B. M. frigate Java, Henry Lambert, Esq. commander, Dec. 29, 1812.

KILLED.

James Ongrain, seaman; Joseph Adams, do. Patrick Conner, do. John Cheeves, do. Barney Hart, do. Mark Snow, do. John D. Allen, do. William Cooper, do. Thomas Hanson, private marine.

WOUNDED.

William Bainbridge, Esq. commander, severely, John C. Alwyn, lieut. do. Charles F. Waldo, master's mate, do. Peter Woodbury, quarter master, do. John Clements, seaman, do. Joseph P. Cheeves, do. do. Nicholas Vantrim, do. slightly; William Long, do. dangerously; Stephen Webb, do. do. Reuben Landas, do. do. Joseph Ward, severely;

William Weaden, do. slightly; Enos Baleman, do. dangerously; James D. Hammond, do. slightly; Peter Venus, do. severely; Stephen Shepherd, do. slightly; Abijah Eddy, do. do. Phillip Cook, do. do. Philip Brimblecom, do. severely; Samuel Brown, ord. do. do. Daniel Hogan, do. do. Thomas Williams, 3d do. slightly; John Voyle, do. severely; Anthony River, private marine, slightly; John Etwell, do. do.

(Signed) AMOS A. EVANS, Surgeon.
R. C. LUDLOW, Purser.

WM. BAINBRIDGE.

AN ACT,

Supplementary to an act, entitled, "An act to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions," and to repeal the act now in force for those purposes, and to increase the pay of volunteer and militia corps.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in every case in which a court martial shall have adjudged and determined a fine against any officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, of the militia, for any of the causes specified in the act to which this act is a supplement, or in the fourth section of an act, entitled, "An act to authorise a detachment from the militia of the United States;" all such fines so assessed shall be certified to the comptroller of the treasury of the United States, in the same manner as the act to which this is a supplement directed the same to be certified to the supervisor of the revenue.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the marshals shall pay all fines which have been levied and collected by them or their respective deputies, under the authority of the acts herein referred to, into the treasury of the United States, within two months after they shall have received the same, deducting five per centum for their own trouble; and in case of failure, it shall be the duty of the comptroller of the treasury to give notice to the district attorney of the United States, who shall proceed against the said marshal in the district court by attachment for recovery of the same.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the volunteer and militia corps, who, subsequent to the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and twelve, shall have been or may hereafter be called out while in the service of the United States, shall, during the continuance of the present war between the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories, be entitled to

and receive the same monthly pay, rations, and forage, and be furnished with the same camp equipage as are or may be provided by law for the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, of the army of the United States.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. H. CRAWFORD,

President of the Senate pro-tempore.
February 2, 1813.

APPROVED,

JAMES MADISON.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

In one part, going into battle, he is observed to turn pale and tremble; the array of the troops recalls to his afflicted mind the scene of the dreadful slaughter of his kindred, friends and nobles, and his long lost Portugal, the direful effect of his wild chivalric spirit; those around him, silently remark his emotion, but dare not whisper suspicion; the trumpet sounds to battle, the Hero shines conspicuous and marches to victory amidst scenes of carnage.

At another time, borne down by misfortunes, we find him stretched upon the deck of a vessel, emaciated, pale and trembling; a corsair engages the vessel, and the captain looks on the unknown king as a poor, dastardly wretch; the shrieks of a female are heard, Sebastian starts up, fights with lion like courage and releases the fair one, whom he recognises as his former benefactress, while in moorish captivity.

Our natures are so different and our feelings so differently indicated, that one man may fear in his very heart and it will hardly be observed in his countenance, while another will possess the courage of Cæsar and his cheek will be pale; the blood marches to the face of one, and forsakes the face of another, at the same time and on the same occasion of danger or surprise.

The operations of the mind from prejudice, imagination and mistaken anticipation have a wonderful effect on the system; a culprit will leave his prison door with feelings of horror, yet encounter the last trial with firmest nerve; many a youth has foreseen the coming battle with fearful apprehension, and yet performed his part with admirable spirit; one has trembled on board a sail boat upon the calm surface of a river, who could, with comparative composure spur his steed against a line of bayonets; a seaman who will pass his joke in the heat of an engagement, will shake in every limb when seated on the

back of a gentle horse: the man who will attack a Tiger with resolution, will tremble at the sight of a kitten; the northern hunter who disregards the glance of the rattlesnake, would shudder at the cry of an alligator; the Kentuckian who disregards the drawn dirk or the pointed rifle, retreats from the sight of a pocket pistol; and the peasant who gallops his mule over Alpine precipices, within call of the bandits whistle, will be frightened when walking through the streets of a city.

It is necessary to notice (as accurately as possible) the different temperaments of men before we presume to decide on either their force or bravery, valour or fortitude; the ablest judges err in their decision, and yet the most superficial proclaim their opinions without hesitation.

De Retz mentions that he and the marshal Turenne were once exposed to alarm; after it was passed, the cardinal asked the hero, if he had experienced any terror? Turenne assured him he had not and de Retz observed he himself, had been greatly unnerved; "I could not perceive it said the other, you advanced with so much alacrity;" yes (said the cardinal) I was terrified enough and I thought you so "he then remarks on the deception of appearance; though frightened himself, Turenne with all his observation did not notice it, on account of his vivacity; and merely because the marshal approached with that caution and serious manner so correspondent with his native courage and habitual reflection, de Retz concluded, he must have been alarmed.

Did we not discover many err nt knaves to be as remarkable for cowardly spirit as for impertinent confidence and duplicity in society, we would be oftener inclined to attach the idea of intrepidity to their cool carriage, than to the different demeanor of their superiors in courage as well as honor; Mr. Addison's remarks on the subject, are certainly just, for no doubt, the very man who would mount a breach with heroism may be timidly abashed in a small circle of company; and many a one who, in "a bloody affray," would grasp at the Eagle of renown, would falter in describing the scene before a numerous assembly; this arises from a sensibility, which the hero may not conquer, and which the poltroon may never have felt.

Achilles bathed the wounds of Patroclus with tears of anguish; Alexander involuntarily clenched his sword at the sound of warlike instruments; Coriolanus was unmanned by the presence of his mother, wife and infants; Epaminondas embraced his shield when dying; Cæsar

turned his fading sight with the last beam of affection on his assassin; Henry the 4th, fainted on receiving the news of his mistress being dead, and Nelson, expiring in the arms of victory, claimed the parting kiss of his friends.

What a picture is this of human nature! how amiable and how glorious! these are not the feelings of the automaton who passes through life unswayed by the noblest passions of our nature, and resigns his breath to be unlamented and forgotten: without passions the soul can never rise to a commanding dignity, and when wisely regulated, they render courage humane, clemency just and ambition honorable; a living statue is not auspicious, and where passion is inert, the ferocity of the bear cannot reach a glorious distinction.

What would be the opinion of a phlegmatic Hollander were he to contemplate Napoleon (without knowing him) a gentleman, who frequently saw him while first consul, declares—"it would have been almost impossible to have given a portrait of him at that period; his action and countenance were so variable, that they retained the same appearance for no length of time; at one moment an indication of energetic fire, at another of melancholy sadness, then, of even timid reserve, and alternately of gloom and gaiety; his eye beaming with the fire of ambition, or expressive of pensive meditation; his cheek pale from watchfulness or flushed with anger and the nerves relaxed to weakness, or braced with an incredible force.

I heard a Frenchman mention, he saw the conqueror in Italy, at the time of his victorious career in that country; surrounded by his suite, he sat pensive and retired in thought; his eye was without the least expression of vivacity and his visage pale and sallow; no one could have thought his apparently mild temper could have been roused to anger; yet this same man has so fiercely glanced his eye on his officers as to appal their courage; at one time, after he had examined personally into the state of a garrison on the frontier of France, he privately rebuked its commanding officer, who returned agitated to some acquaintance and told them, nothing he had ever witnessed, or might have conceived, could equal the terrible ferocity of Napoleons countenance; this circumstance I had from a Frenchman who had served with Bonaparte.

Can it be possible that Napoleons bravery has been doubted? 'tis e'en so, for spectators saw him breathe hard, tremble and turn pale and red alternately; his lip quivered when he addressed his companions in arms, and can he be

a brave man? will a brave man breathe hard, tremble and quiver in the lip? philosophers may answer more fully; I only reply, Napoleon did thus; shaking with contending passions, he dared the poignard of Arena, and rushed into the arms of dominion.

Does the bridegroom tremble on the evening of his joy; did Cæsar view the Rubicon with mule like indifference and exclaim to his soldiers in the voice of a drone? no the more our desires are excited by the prospect of pleasure or renown, the keener are our sensibilities; and if Cæsar and Napoleon have been agitated, the fear of death was not the cause, but the dread of losing that, without which, they deemed life a burthen.

RUPERT.

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK,

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1813.

The Proprietors of this Paper having purchased a complete

PRINTING OFFICE,

have established the same in Church Street, No. 6, back of St. Paul's Church yard. Will thankfully execute all orders for Printing, with which they may be favored, either in French, English or Spanish, as neatly and expeditiously as any others of the profession in this city and on as cheap terms.

Orders for this Paper, addressed as above, will meet with prompt attention.

Sir Robert Wilson, in speaking of the Cossack, says—"Nothing can elude his activity, escape his penetration, or surprise his vigilance. No instance of a surprise is on record. Mounted on a very little ill-conditioned, but well-bred horse, which can walk at the rate of five miles an hour with ease, or in his speed dispute the race with the swiftest; with a short whip on his wrist, armed with a lance, a pistol in his girdle, and a sword, he never fears a competitor in single combat; and in the late war he irresistibly attacked every opposing squadron in the field. Terror preceded his charge, and in vain discipline endeavoured to present an impediment to the protruding pikes. The Cuirassiers alone preserved some confidence, and appeared to baffle the arm and the skill of the Cossack, but in the battle of Eylau, where the Cuirassiers made their desperate charge on the Russian centre, and passed through, the Cossacks instantly bore down on them, speared them, unhorsed them, and in a few moments 530 Cossacks reappeared on the field equipped with the spoil of the slain. They act in dispersion, and when they do reunite to charge, it is not with a systematic formation, but *en masse*, or what in Germany is called the *swarm attack*. No cavalry has power like them to march for days and nights, climbing hills, swimming rivers, and winding through vallies without interruption. Ten thousand such warriors would, against more than equal numbers, command in every field, or in the course of a cam-

paign ruin their adversaries by mere excess of duty and movement."

Some time since, as a man was employed grinding smoothing irons, at the Saracen-lane foundry, Glasgow, the grindstone, which is driven by steam, split in four pieces, one of which struck him in the head, knocked out one of his eyes and a number of his teeth, and shattered his jaw-bone in a dreadful manner. He was carried to the Infirmary, and hopes are entertained of his recovery. The stone flew with such velocity, that, after wounding the unfortunate man, it forced its way out at the roof of the house.

TO CORRESPONDENT.

"AMICUS" shall appear in our next.

Summary.

The domestic events of the last week, present us with no great variety, if we except the occupation by the British of Smiths Island in the mouth of the Chesapeake which they are stated to be fortifying in order to render it a post similar to the Diamond rock in the entrance to Martinique whence they can with greater facility annoy our commerce.

Letters from Norfolk state that some of the British frigates were lately driven on shore in a snow storm. If this report should prove true, we hope the gunboats in that harbour will complete their destruction.

Various rumours of General Harrison having defeated the British, have been in circulation for some days. We doubt their authenticity and fear that Winchester's defeat is rather a prelude to further misfortunes in case General Harrison should advance and enter Upper Canada, where, we are credibly informed the most extraordinary exertions are making to bring the whole armed population to bear on the invaders.

The Bill for encreasing the number of general officers has passed Congress and only wants the President's signature to become a law.

Congress have reconsidered their former vote by which they refused compensation to Captain Hull and his crew for destroying the *Guerriere*—they have granted \$50,000 for that noble act and to Captain Bainbridge and the same crew a similar sum for the capture and destruction of the *Java*.

Ogdensburg was attacked by the British, on the night of the 22 ultimo, and captured. The garrison under Capt. Forsyth, defended themselves gallantly, and retired with the loss of about 20 killed and wounded.

The public stores had been previously removed, as an attack was daily expected.

FOREIGN.

"LORD WELLINGTON, OUR ENEMY, the pride of Soldiers." (Boston Toast.)

The campaign in Portugal, on the part of the British, is at length closed, and the "Great Lord" chased from Spain with the loss of 6 or 7 thousand men, has again assumed his old quarters near Lisbon; so that he is just as far advanced in the work of delivering Spain and Portugal, as he was after the celebrated convention of Cintra, concluded with Gen. Junot, about four years since.

The noble defence of Burgos, by a handful of Frenchmen, and the subsequent events of

the campaign, are well calculated to inspire the French army with confidence in the skill and abilities of their commanders, who are now at liberty to turn their attention to Badajoz, Almeida and Rodrigo, and perhaps detach a sufficient force to form the siege of Cadiz anew and recapture Seville.

Whether the period has arrived for the termination of the Peninsular war or not, would be presumptuous in us to assert; but, we venture an opinion, that the Emperor Napoleon, at this moment has a fair opportunity of bringing the contest to a speedy conclusion. The people are not opposed to him—at Salamanca, only two Spaniards fell in the action, nor did the Guerrillas encrease after their allies had won a victory, which amongst its consequences ought to call an army of Spaniards into existence, sufficient to have rid their country of French and British invaders, and thus remove foreign influence and restore Spain to independence. But, we repeat it, the people were not hearty in the cause, & therefore "they willed" to have masters; and have chosen the French, whose manners, customs and religion, are more congenial with their feelings than are those of their "British allies."

Whatever hopes were entertained of the evacuation of Spain, by the French immediately after the battle of Salamanca, must now be superceded by contrary expectations. The victory seems to have resulted from the good fortune of Lord Wellington, rather than from his "generalship"—and his subsequent conduct puts it beyond a doubt, that his success was not merited, and that though Marmont has never been ranked amongst the first of Napoleon's Captains, yet, his wound may have been the sole cause of British triumph.

Previous to the battle of Salamanca on the 22d, of July, the French cavalry reduced by hard service, and without reinforcements were nearly unfit for service: these circumstances together with the losses sustained on that day, so weakened the army of Portugal that a close pursuit by the British must have ended either in their capture or destruction.

Abstracted from these considerations, and supposing the victory to have been achieved under ordinary circumstances, it ought to have had a decided influence on the future operations of the campaign; but happening after a series of reverses, such as have been seldom experienced by modern French armies, we think its consequences should have comported with the most sanguine expectations of the Spaniards and their allies; and as we mentioned before, the invaders ought to have been expelled and never permitted to return.

None of these important events, resulted from this celebrated battle, nor has there even been a single division of the many insulated and disjointed corps of the French army captured or dispersed in consequence of a success, which it was vainly hoped would lead to their extinction!

The divisions under Soult, consisting of the first, fourth and sixth corps, comprising the garrison of Seville and various other fortresses, and the corps under Laval, that formed the siege of Cadiz were estimated by British accounts at from 30 to 35 thousand effectives. The distance from Seville to Cordova is about 75 miles in a NW direction, to the latter place Soult bent his march after the evacuation of Seville, about the 22nd of August. General sir Rowland Hill was at Zafra in Estremadura, ready to regulate his operations by those of Soult, whom he was appointed to keep at

check and hinder from affording any relief to the beaten corps of Marmont.

The revolution in the government of Sicily, and the absence of the king of Naples with his army in Russia, enabled the British to detach an expedition of 7000 men from that Island under General Maitland; who, united with 8000 Spaniards landed at Alicant, and cut off the communication between Soult and Suchet, and had it in their power to threaten Valencia, or push through Murcia through Andujar and Cordova in order to overtake Soult whilst Lord Wellington, not finding it convenient to capture Marmont might approach the Guadalquivir from Madrid and thus place Soult in the centre of three British armies aided by Ballasteros Castanos, Mina, Porlier, &c. whose united force would present such a mass of enemies to the French Marshall as would not leave him an excuse for resistance.

The Chasms in our accounts of the campaign, and those accounts we have seen, are so meagre, that it is out of our power to detail the movements of any of those corps; and we are therefore unable to account for the escape of Soult, which appears to us as equal if not superior to any of the extraordinary events of the present day, whether we attribute it to his talents or to the ignorance of the British commanders. His defeat would have ruined the affairs of the French in Andalusia and rendered the English masters of the coast from Alicant on the shore of the Mediterranean to Bilbao on the bay of Biscay.

But "the Great Lord" marred all instead of marching directly for any of the objects that invited his attention, he diverged, for the silly honour of a triumphal entry to the Capital, where he was entertained with bull fights, Fandangoes and Serenades till the second of September, six weeks after the battle of Salamanca, from which city he was not then more than 90 miles!!!

At length he fled from the honours that awaited him at Madrid, and after various operations sat down before Burgos "a fortress of earth" which he besieged for thirty five days; "contrary to the rules of art."—Here his good fortune fails him; defeated with considerable slaughter in five assaults he raises the siege on the approach of the French army and flies precipitately from Spain, pursued by hostile columns, some of them led by his own countrymen who had been persecuted as aliens in the land of their nativity, and forced to seek refuge in a foreign country which they now amply repay for her hospitality, by devoting their lives to her service in the foremost squadrons of her advanced guards.

The British are at present in their strong lines near Lisbon, and thus ends the campaign "the Great Lord Wellington" and "the good Knight Sir Rowland."

Extracts.

FROM THE AURORA.

A SKETCH.

OF THE PROGRESS OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

No. I.

We have been requested from two or three respectable quarters, to give some views of the progress and nature of military discipline in the United States.—

To do this completely, it would be first necessary to enquire into the nature of discipline itself, to shew its progress in Europe, and to trace it thence to the United States. This would occupy too much space, and it would, instead of an object of utility, be a matter of mere curiosity.

We shall, however, take it up in a different order, we shall give a sketch of *military discipline* as it was on the commencement of the revolution; but we shall make it subservient to an illustration of what discipline consists of, and wherein past and present defects consist.

It is not to our present purpose to go into a review of the exercises of the period when the matchlock and pike, were the arms of infantry; nor to follow the absurd exercises in which the perfection of military discipline consisted in tossing the musket in the air, & catching it in a particular position: or when the poise firelock consisted in catching the firelock by the handle and holding it at full arms length from the body in an direct position. There was as much difficulty in getting rid of this preposterous trumpery, better adapted to make men merry than to render them skilful in military action, as there has been to prevail upon the great mass of our militia officers and of some of our regular officers too, to look for discipline any where else than in the mutilated book called "*Steuben's Regulations*," which there are men so seriously silly at the present day and hour, as to hold forth as containing the means of military instruction and discipline fit to combat against troops who have adopted the modern improvements in the art of war.

Let it not be imagined that what is here said, is meant directly or indirectly to take from the reputation or the merit of the deceased veteran; not a single leaf in the wreath which entwined his brow would we disconcert: and it was not his fault, that the portly and perfect edifice, which he, and the committee of officers associated with him, had prepared was mercilessly hewed down to the misshapen and mutilated form of the tract which has been received, ever since the revolution, as a perfect system.

When the American revolution commenced, the state of military knowledge was the same in England and in America. The systems which had been successively introduced by *Bland*, *Phipps*, and *Wolf* into the regiments which they had commanded, had never been uniformly adopted by the British army in general; and the modes of discipline were as various, as the capacities and tastes of their several commanders.—

There were some of the *grey-wigged* genery then, as there are now, who damned all innovations, and who had rather be shot through the thorax, in the *old discipline*, (as it was called) than gain a victory in the new style; all those officers, *Bland* and *Wolf* particularly, were objects of reproach to all the *old standers*, and even some of *Wolf's* survivors were so much offended by his innovations, as to impute his fall before *Quebec* to his encroachments upon the good ancient method of *poising the firelock at arms length*.

Before the middle of the last century the celebrated *Frederick of Prussia*, and by his military parades at *Potzdant*, excited a spirit of emulation in *Germany* and *France*. The exclusion of strangers from those parades, where *Frederick* had formed his habits to command, and developed the theory of those evolutions by which he triumphed at *Pragne*, *Rusbach* and *Leuthen*, had excited the greatest curiosity among the military youth of the *European continent*. In *England*, where they are more disposed to borrow than to acknowledge their debts in military science; their insular situation, the success of their navy, and the depression of *France* in 1763, had tended, to render military studies unfashionable, as promoting no field of enterprise to reward the pursuit of arms. The conquest of *Canada* had a like effect in the *United States*; and it was not until *Gage* let loose his myrmidons, that the necessity of military study was conceived. The state of military knowledge may be conceived, by attending to the fact, that serjeants and corporals who possessed no other knowledge than the mere mounting of guard, or the manual exercise, were considered as possessing all the skill which was then required; and many of them were promoted during the war to rank in the army. In *England* the only part of the *Prussian discipline* which was discovered, was what has ever since prevailed; that is the art of *setting up* the recruit and dressing him in buckram: putting his feet in the stocks to make him turn out his toes in an angle of 60 degrees, and so fixing his arms to his sides in marching, that they should be as immovable as if nailed to the shoulder, or that the arm & shoulder, was only a solid immoveable bone; queues of solid wood, covered with tape, to which the hair of the head was tied so tight as to render it difficult for the unfortunate soldier to shut his eyes, completed the system of *English discipline*, ludicrously said to be an imitation of the *Prussian discipline*.

As we imported all our ideas of propriety and wisdom in all other things

from the mother country, it was natural enough that we should have imported these improvements on the art military and that they were considered capable of producing such miraculous effects on soldiers, that every thing must fall before them. The battle of bunker's hill, however, proved that a body of men in lank hair, and without wooden tails to their heads, and who had never had their toes in the stocks, could resist men so disciplined. In fact, with the exception of a few regiments, such as the 17th, or Cornwallis's, the 33d, and a few others, whose officers possessed more talent, and understood better in what military discipline consisted, the British regulars, even the royal guards, were not better disciplined than our militia—there was the same misapprehension and belief, that it was all a mystery to which none but a happy few, who were, like the poets, born soldiers, could become masters in the art of war, or could ever aspire to the due comprehension of it.

The American revolution presented a noble field for the soldier of fortune, and Germany and France poured thousands of her ablest & most enterprising officers upon our shores. The continental troops were, like the British, whom they imitated, as variously taught; for, as there was no established standard in England, neither was there here; and in this state the additional variance of Prussian, Polish, German and French officers from the modes of each other added to the discordance.

The first officer who introduced, with success, an uniformity of any kind, was the French general Conway, while he acted as inspector of the army. He was a man profoundly skilled in all that appertained to war, and carried his military passion to a degree of fastidiousness which was not well adapted to the situation of the times and people among whom he was placed. Nothing short of the most perfect military ordination would satisfy him; he produced some good effects, but he rendered himself unpopular, as well by the strictness of his discipline as the severity of his strictures on all whose military conduct came under his observation; and he at length retired from the service—he died governor of Mauritius, 1792 or 1793.

The discordance of various modes of discipline was particularly felt in marches, and in the dispositions for the order of battle; Dr. Franklin was instructed to apply to the king of Prussia for a military system; a *bon mot* is related that he replied "I am too old to go to America." Baron Hertzberg signified by a letter to Dr. Franklin, that the Baron Steuben was qualified,

The want of system was however felt, and a committee of officers was appointed to prepare a military system, & Baron Steuben was the presiding officer to that committee. Major L'Enfant, at present a living monument of public neglect and ingratitude, was one of that committee, and is we believe, the only survivor. That committee prepared, after great labor and assiduity, a very ample system, embracing all the military knowledge of the period; and it occupied two folio volumes in manuscript.

Whether it was a want of comprehension, or economy, which prevailed over those who had to decide upon this important work, we cannot determine—but it is certain that with a truly barbarous blindness, this complete system was hacked and hewed down, into the headless, armless and legless, and mutilated shape it now bears—and as it has been ever since preserved and represented to the country as a perfect system in itself; and competent to all the uses of war!—The work at large, we understand, perished in the memorable conflagration of the war office, along with many other precious documents. It will be perceived from these facts that the little book called "Steuben's Regulations," was only an abstract, adopted for a temporary expedient; not to communicate knowledge, but to render discipline in some points accordant.

It has been observed with too much melancholy truth, that nothing could so forcibly demonstrate the incompetency of military men and the general ignorance of which military discipline consist of, as the notions which have been held forth, and continue to be held forth concerning the tract of Steuben.

When in the revolution there were numerous officers from Europe already prepared by skill and study to command, Steuben's tract might answer well enough; because what was not to be found in that book, was to be found in their experience; & it was only in a few evolutions of manœuvres that the manner of execution of two corps, however different, could interfere with each other; that corps only having the advantage which executed them over the shortest space and in the shortest time; the disadvantage was, that the quick moving corps, on important occasions were compelled to await the tardy evolutions of the column; the march by guides of alignment, and passing the defile, were alone described; it was left to the skill of the officer commanding brigades & regiments to make such dispositions as were required, in the manner with which they were best acquainted.

The small detachment landed by

D'Estaing at Rhode Island, and the regiments of French regulars which were sent to aid in the contest, contributed more than any other means to produce that discipline and emulation, which at the siege of York Town was so exemplary and successful. The knowledge possessed by skillful men at that time, supplied in some degree the want of an uniform and competent system; and it was very fortunate for the United States, that the same discordance prevailed between the British themselves, and their Hessian allies.

In fact, Steuben's tract is constructed in that way, which implies that a great body of particular knowledge is required by the officer, and which must be procured from some other source, since that does not furnish it.

No. II.

We have complied with the wishes of our correspondents in tracing up the history of military discipline in the United States to a certain stage; we need not pursue it through an intermediate stage, having in a small pamphlet published at Washington city last spring, and in two or three subsequent essays, noticed what was given to the army then as a regulation for its discipline; all that we then said has been since unhappily verified.

Instead therefore of again travelling this unhallowed ground, we shall turn to the subject itself, and endeavor to throw some light on it in a familiar manner. We shall, to render it simple, ask this question.

What is military discipline?

The question may be answered in various ways, generally and in detail. It may be said that "discipline is the mechanical part of the business of the art of war, or the practice of every thing that may be executed in the field." Again, it may be described as—"the formation, training, and government of troops." These are only general expressions of the nature of discipline and its object; but they do not describe the particulars in which it consists, nor the means or manner by which the business of war and every thing that is to be performed in the field is executed; nor in what consists the formation and training of troops.

The author of the eloquent little volume entitled, "*Hints to Young Generals by an Old Soldier*," has placed this subject of military discipline in a point of view, from which it may be examined & rendered familiar to the plainest comprehension. He asks these questions—

"Without understanding perfectly what are called the evolutions, how is it possible that a general can give his own army that order of battle which shall be most provident and skillful in each particular case in which

he may be placed?—How shall he know which of these EVOLUTIONS the enemy employs against him?—How can he decide on a counter movement which may be necessary to secure victory or avoid defeat?"

This little extract contains matter enough to occupy a large volume, it goes to the foundation and embraces the summit of military science.

As many of the difficulties in every science arise from the mistake of terms; to give as clear and concise a view of the subject as possible, it will be necessary to explain what is understood by certain words which we must employ in treating of the subject.

Thus the terms *discipline* and *evolutions* require to be understood in a precise sense. We derive the term *discipline* from the Romans and their meaning of the word is best illustrated by their example. A Roman army was denominated *exercitus*, or the *exercise*; and those who were employed to conduct the exercises, were called *exercitatori*, that is *teachers of exercise*; those who were taught were called *disciples*, or *learners*, and their method of instruction consisting of various exercises—all exercises taught as well as the regulations and principles by which the exercises were conducted, were called *disciplina*, or *disciplina discipline*, that is instruction by exercise, or practical instruction.

This is exactly the sense of the term in our language, it is the method of art, by which military instruction is practically communicated, regulated, and taught; and it is more or less perfect and suitable to the end, as it is natural, simple, easy of comprehension and performance, and competent to the accomplishment of what is required to be performed by a body of military men—whether a company—a regiment—a brigade—or an army; for the principles of discipline equally apply to all, and should be common and uniform throughout the whole of an army—the smallest as well as the largest body.

The *elementary discipline* is that part upon which correctness and effect depends throughout; it is what is expressed in other terms, the *mechanical* part of the art of war. This first, or elementary part is called *mechanical*, because, deducing certain principles from the physical structure and powers of man, such as the capacity for *motion* or *walking*, the extent and duration of that capacity, and the means to which it can be applied, rules are formed upon maxims like these.

1. The power of an army consists in the consentaneous movement of the whole, or any required part in any required manner.

2. The greater the celerity, and the better combined and directed the impulse of an army is, so much more powerful it will be.

3. Armies are composed of men of unequal height and muscular power—some are tall, others short.

4. The principles of discipline, therefore, must be so devised as to employ such means of will produce all as the effects required, with the means possessed.

Thus men of unequal stature and muscular power, must be taught to act and move in such a way that by the judicious use of their faculties, the effect of their power in action shall be equal, if not to the power of the strongest, at least equal to the average of the power of the whole—this is an art of applying power, by which men are brought to act mechanically or by rule.

Again—As the celerity of bodies put in motion, has a tendency to augment their impulse, rules are devised by which that impulse shall be made to act consentaneously—or the power of great numbers to act at once—and in determinate and known times—this also is referable to mechanical laws.

The manner of reducing these principles to practice by mechanical instructions, is obviously a mere matter of *common sense*, if the mind can be only persuaded that there is nothing mysterious in it;—and upon which it would seem there ought to be no dispute, since the principles there stated being acknowledged, the application and the effect would alike seem to place it out of the reach of dispute or difficulty. We cannot dispute the fact, that a man who walks in a natural gait to which he has been accustomed, with his limbs unconstrained, will walk, for a longer time, and in a shorter time over a given space, than the same man if he be made to distort his body and turn his head in a different direction from the path in which his feet are required to move.

We cannot doubt, that four men attacking one man with swords at the same instant, will be more likely to succeed by standing together against four others who resist only one at a time, while the four attack the one altogether.

These two principles are the basis of the modern discipline, and the mechanical part of discipline is intended to instruct men, how to move over the greatest space in the shortest time, and with the least labor; and it teaches them how to move exactly together, and in the same space of time; its perfection over the old system consists in accomplishing these objects, and in rejecting every thing absurd unnatural and superfluous.

Here we shall again recur to the ex-

tract for the "*Hints to Young Generals*"—in which it is said that—"Without understanding perfectly the evolutions, it is not possible for a general to give his own army a proper order of battle or to comprehend the order or evolutions of a skilful enemy." Having explained in what the mechanical part of the art of war consists, it will be necessary next to obtain a precise understanding of the term *evolutions*; and in explaining this term we shall also approach to a more distinct understanding of what *discipline* should be, by knowing what is required to be accomplished or executed, and which cannot be executed well without a good discipline. Thus armies are bodies of men armed and put in motion, either in large masses collected together at one point, or in separate masses moving at different points. The word *evolution* means, literally, to *unfold to open*, and in a military sense it is understood to mean the opening or unfolding of one or more parts of an army, in reference to the whole; or the opening of several of the parts of an army, at the same time, which are so many evolutions; all of which movements combined and acting under one impulse or command for a common object, is called a *manœuvre*; and when the army is large, and the bodies of which it is composed execute different evolutions out of sight of each other, but according to a fixed plan or purpose of the commander; then it is called the *grand manœuvre*; & the *skill* by which these evolutions and manœuvres are previously arranged and calculated upon by the commander, so as to be exactly and well executed, is what is properly called the *science of tactics*, or of the general.

To retrace the steps which we have ascended from the mechanical part of discipline, we shall state it thus distinctly, there can be no tactics without a capacity for combined manœuvres; and there can be no manœuvres without evolutions, nor can there be evolutions without discipline.

Here we are once more at the original question—*What is military discipline?*

In order to present the subject in a light in which it is not usually viewed, and thro' neglect, or want of discernment which has not viewed it in this light, our state legislators has wasting the public time and money to disparaging the national understanding, by enacting ridiculous militia laws.

(To be Continued.)

LATEST FROM SPAIN.

General Ballasteros has been dismissed; owing; it is said, to his inactivity.

in pursuing Soult, on his march towards the east—an error which contributed greatly to the adversity experienced by the allied army—he is, therefore disgraced. He was succeeded in command by Gen. O'Donnell.

General Ballasteros has written the following letter to the Ministers of War:—

“ EXCELLENT SIR—

“ SINCE the epoch that I was in Madrid; since the moment the Barcelona, Figuera, Pampeluna and St. Sebastian, fell into the hands of the French, I began to employ all means I thought expedient to bring about a revolution.—I maintained a correspondence with the different Provinces of Spain—I acted with a courage surpassed by no person; and I flatter myself that no one contributed more than I have done to the success obtained by our arms.

“ Since that period, I have not ceased to carry arms; and I have resisted, for the honor of my country, all temptations held out to me.

“ Ever inflexible by remaining Spaniard, my country has ever found me ready to defend it, under all circumstances regardless, of wealth, for which your excellency will acknowledge, I have ever manifested the greatest indifference.

“ I have been surprised to learn that the English General [Wellington] had been appointed, (by a resolution of the states) General Commander in Chief of the Spanish Armies.

“ Men, who, to defend the glory of their own country, have precipitated into the tomb millions of our companions in arms, contemplate our measures—and I should not conceive myself a native of Arragon, did I not declare to your excellency, in order that you may inform the government of it, that I cannot approve of a resolution which tends to fade the honor of the Spanish name, and degrade the military chiefs of this nation, from the supposed superiority of a people with whom we have ever endeavored to cultivate terms of amity, and whose bad faith cannot be better appreciated than by the Duke del Infantado, President of the Regency.

“ I received the intelligence of this event, and, immediately after, an order to put my army in motion—an order, which brings in question the honor of every individual composing it, either a regular or a citizen. I cannot dissemble (without usurping the rights belonging to them) relative to the act of acknowledging Lord Wellington General in Chief of the Spanish Armies; & as this point is of the highest importance for the welfare of the country, I wait the resolution of your Excel-

lency to adopt an ulterior determination.

“ Your Excellency informs me by the same order, that Lord Wellington returns thanks to the Generals of the Spanish nations for the exertions they had made, which brought such happy results to the allied armies. To whom, then, ought to be confined the armed force of this nation?—Ought Spain to be viewed in the same light as the small kingdom of Portugal? Is not the origine of our revolution different to that of the Portuguese? Has not the noise of our resistance resounded in every part of the world? Can we confide in a foreigner the supreme command of our armies? Notwithstanding the actual state of affairs, there still remain resources to Spain: the generals, the chiefs, the officers and the soldiers, are yet capable of convincing the English and the French themselves that on the day of battle, they can display as much valor and discipline as either of these people; and that their own chiefs are sufficiently skillful to lead them to victory.

“ The 4th army that I command can state to the nation, that in point of military achievement, it cedes to none; and that it cannot, without disgracing itself submit to have its acquired glory obscured, and the services it has rendered, to flatter Lord Wellington; although it is otherwise always disposed to act in concert with him.

“ In fine, I supplicate your Excellency to consult the opinion of the national armies, and of the citizens; & if they adhere to the nomination, I shall retire to private life, and thus convince the world, that honor and the welfare of my country alone, have determined me to make this exposition, and not views of ambition & wealth, which, through malignity, might be imputed to me, without having regard to my reputation and patriotism, so well established by my consistency and my signal services.

[Signed]

E BALLASTEROS.

FATAL DUEL.

On Tuesday, the 20th Oct. 1812 there was buried at Leek, M. Le Courbe, a French naval officer, who was on parole at that place.—The circumstances which led to the death of this young man are truly uncommon. About ten days previous to his decease, he was out beyond the hour when prisoners ought to return to their lodgings, and on this account the boys collected about, and pelted him with stones. His behaviour on this occasion made one of his brother officers observe “ that he was soft—that he would faint at the sight of his own blood.” Le Courbe gave him the lie; the other struck

him, and the consequence was a challenge. Each party had his second; but as they could only procure one pistol, they cast lots who should have the first fire! It fell on Le Courbe. Ten yards was the distance measured by the seconds. Le Courbe fired, and his ball went through both the thighs of his antagonist, who fell on the ground, declaring that as Le Courbe had now got satisfaction, he should not take his chance. The seconds, however, insisting on his firing, and, helping him up, and supporting him, he, in this shocking situation, (the blood streaming from his wounds) took his fire, and his ball went through Le Courbe's neck. Le Courbe died on the 17th, and on the 20th a Coroner's inquest was held on the body; and strange it may appear, the Jury brought in their verdict—“ Died by the Visitation of God!” The officer who was wounded in the thighs is recovering. (Eng. Paper.

POSTSCRIPT.

By an arrival, yesterday from England, we have received the following Intelligence.

The Prince Regent, in a late message to Parliament recommends a vigorous prosecution of the war against this country, and declares it to be his fixed determination, never to yield any of the maritime rights of Great Britain!!!

Twenty sail of the line and six frigates are ordered for the American station, to reinforce the fleet under Sir John B. Warren.

Mr. BARLOW, we are sorry to say, died on his return from Russia to France.

We have seen a letter from Dublin, which mentions the failure of one of the most respectable woollen manufacturing houses in that City, which involved twelve others in its fate, and that thirty thousand manufacturers were out of employment in the liberties of Dublin.—Distress was at its acme, and the Lord Mayor had called a meeting of the trade to consider what was best to be done to alleviate their miseries.

On Friday se'nnight September 1812 the Recorder of Limerick proceeded from thence to Newport, in the County of Tipperary, where he arrested ANTHONY BURKE, Esq. formerly a Captain in the Army, on the information of PHILIP BROUGHAN, publican of that city.—The information which was sworn before the Recorder, charges Mr. BURKE with meeting at the informant's house, and submitting to him a plan for organising the inhabitants of Limerick, and the adjacent counties, for seditious purposes. Irish Paper.

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